

Ag Discussion Summary Notes

April 7, 2006

Opportunities

- Education about the Delta and its resources
- Potential tax revenue (levee maintenance)
- Wine/Ag Trail links
- Network of sites including links by car
- Transportation option
- Enhancement of existing wildlife/habitat public areas, including Stone Lakes, Sherman Island, Vic Fazio Wildlife Area, Yolo Wildlife Management area and other sites maintained by BLM, Ducks Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS and F&G.
- Funding for Delta resources (mitigation, grants and bonds)
- Expansion of Bay Trail funding sources (long-term)
- Integration with county park master plans and funding sources

Concerns

- Identification of feasible and appropriate links (public/private)
- Potential impacts to ag operations (spraying, etc.)
- Public safety and liability
- Potential for concentrated population uses and intensified levee/roadway use
- Potential impacts to Williamson Act Lands
- Need to take into consideration all five county perspectives (ag, etc.); need to have one-on-one discussions
- Potential impacts to emergency maintenance activities on levees
- Ag and water interests need to be represented on Policy Committee (State Farm Bureau/State Food & Ag)
- Need to clarify roles of planning and stakeholder groups
- Maintenance funding needs to be identified
- Ag needs to be emphasized more as it appears somewhat overlooked in existing bill language
- Equestrian and bike uses don't mix, although both should be accommodated
- Potential for incompatibility of public access over private lands with flood control/levee easements or lands owned by reclamation districts (digging and disturbance of rip-rap, fires, theft, destruction of property such as pumps, trash, disposal of toxic materials and safety)
- Increased demands on local law enforcement and emergency response agencies (especially in remote areas)
- Include Farm Bureau Executive Directors and Board Members, Ag Commissioners, and California Farm Bureau in process
- Potential eco-security issues

- Threats to wildlife • Eminent domain should be avoided
- Potential urban/boater impacts to ag land
- Trail related Infrastructure costs and maintenance costs considering there is little or no money available to maintain existing public facilities.
- Increased public access on already weak levees

Legislation

- Name of trail open to recommendations
- 2008 will be changed to 2010
- Intended links to existing (and planning stage) areas
- Policy Committee intended as structure/Advisory intended desires but both are equal (additional language needed to clarify)
- Sensitivity should reference "other private uses."
- Anticipated funding needs of \$3-6 million, including CEQA process/documentation
- Use of General Fund monies not intended
- Concept "planning" not development

Attendees/Commentors

Dick Marshall, Northern Delta Water Agencies
 Russell Van Loben Sels, Board Member, Sacramento County Farm Bureau
 Topper Van Loben Sels, Reclamation District/DPC
 Frank Carl, Sacramento County Ag Commissioner
 Charlotte Mitchell, Executive Director, Sacramento County Farm Bureau
 Denny Lewis, Director of Government Affairs & Water Issues, Sac. County Farm Bureau
 John Herrick, South Delta Water Agencies

DELTA TRAIL CONCEPT
Recreation/Environment Discussion Summary Notes
April 20, 2006

Opportunities

- Transportation option
- Timing/integration with other plans (State Parks, county general plans, Contra Costa County Transportation Plan, County Park and Open Space Plans/Elements, Delta branding, etc.)
- Potential connections with non-motorized water trails, SACOG bike/pedestrian trail, Sacramento Two Rivers Trail, Sacramento Riverfront Parkway, Port of Sacramento, Rio Vista River Trail, Delta Discovery Center, Stone Lakes, etc.
- Partnership grant opportunities
- Economic viability/sustainability through ag-tourism and eco-tourism
- Multi-use components, including equestrian, boating, biking, and pedestrian
- Destination attraction sites for boaters
- Sport fishing access
- Connectivity for commercial facilities, including restaurants and marinas
- Historical/cultural educational opportunities
- Connectivity for independent loops/attractions/facilities
- Landowner/stakeholder input throughout planning process

Concerns

- Timing could be restrictive given Delta Branding efforts currently underway
- Need to strategize for compatibility with other efforts
- Need to include related amenities such as restroom facilities, boater-to-shore access
- Need to include parking facilities including sites for boat trailers
- Need to include equestrian amenities (watering areas, separate parking for trailer loading and unloading, tie-up areas, etc.)
- Logistic challenges (infrastructure, etc.)
- Feasibility of willing-landowner easements
- Need to improve upon existing facilities as well as creating new amenities/opportunities
- Cross-county commitment
- Inverse condemnation/Eminent Domain
- Funding in light of need for infrastructure improvements for public health/safety
- Existing disconnect as baseline

Legislation/Facilitation

- Send agendas and summary notes for each meeting to all focus discussion invitees
- Confirm inclusion of DPC committees on notice mailing lists
- Eventually facilitate all-inclusive stakeholder groups discussions

Attendees/Commentors

Russell Van Loben Sels, Landowner

Charlotte Mitchell, Sacramento County Farm Bureau

Tony Chappelle, Wildlife Conservation Board

MK Veloz, NCMA

Ken Scheidegger, Discover the Delta Foundation

Brian Collett, The Dangermond Group

Steve Hermsmeyer, Solano County Parks & Recreation

Guy Kolling, Sacramento County Parks

DELTA TRAIL CONCEPT
Private Landowners/Business Interests
June 22, 2006

Opportunities

- Option to utilize county transportation funds
- Inclusion of local advisory committees/boards in planning discussions
- Consider ag as business (not just lifestyle)
- Adopt trail into County General Plans (initiate with integration of DPC Land Use and Resource Management Plan)
- Explore opportunities for inclusion of commercial facilities/vendors (would help to distract activities on private and sensitive lands)
- Utilize the abandoned Sacramento Southern Railroad route (Old Sacramento to Isleton) and the Sacramento Southern excursion train route from Old Town Sacramento to Freeport

Concerns

- Should be noted that Farm Bureau is not voice for “all ag”
- Need to consider and respect agricultural landowner rights equal to urban
- Liability/Litigation

Attendees/Commentors

April Nelson, Sacramento County Economic Development
Dan Gorfain, Friends of the Sacramento River Greenway
Mark Wilson, Wilson Farms/Vineyards
Dean Lattman, H2O to Go

DELTA TRAIL CONCEPT
Delta Planning Entities
June 22, 2006

Opportunities

- Develop Statement of Overriding Principles
- Opportunity to connect with off-shoot trails
- Commercial services/economic opportunities
- Earmark existing funding sources

Concerns

- Nothing designated to react to
- BCDC permitting
- Increased expectations for public services (fire, law enforcement, etc.)
- Private land taking/condemnation

Attendees/Commentors

Anthony Zepeda, San Joaquin County Council of Governments
Mark Wilson, Wilson Farms/Vineyards
John E. Taylor, Solano County General Services
Dennis Lewis, Sacramento County Farm Bureau